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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. WALKER].

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 23, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable ROBERT S. WALKER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

When we contemplate the wondrous gifts that we have received from Your hand, O God, and marvel in the ways that Your spirit makes us whole, we know that we are not adequate to return the blessing to You. Yet, O gracious God, we understand that in a spirit of thankfulness, we can celebrate Your love to us by serving those about us with deeds of justice and acts of mercy. May we clearly see that in assisting others in their concerns and leading in the ways of security and peace for every person, we are serving You, our God, our Creator, and Redeemer. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCHUMER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that 1-minute will be held after the close of legislative business on this day.

### EMPLOYEE COMMUTING FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1227) to amend the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 relating to the payment of wages to employees who use employer owned vehicles.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, May 22, 1996, 1 hour of debate remains on the bill. The gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING] and the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. CLAY] will each control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING].

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Since our gentle debate has strayed from the base bill, which is what we were supposed to be debating for these 90 minutes, I suppose I will join the crew and stray also.

I would say that from what I have heard thus far, it would appear that we are following the big lie phenomena: "If you tell the big lie enough times, you will eventually begin to believe it yourself." And then, "If you tell it some more, you eventually get others to believe it."

If we have agreed, or do by the time the day is over, that we should increase the minimum wage, then it seems to me it is time to turn our attention to the whole idea of job loss and what that problem presents to the most vulnerable, the unskilled, the poorly educated, the teens, and the senior citizens.

Now, that gets us to the big lie issue, because we will hear over and over again that raising the minimum wage does not cause unemployment or does not remove the possibility that people with few skills and little education have when they try to get a job. But yet we are told by the Congressional Budget Office that a 90-cent increase could produce unemployment losses from 100,000 to 500,000 people.

A 1995 study by the University of Michigan and an economist there revealed that New Jersey's minimum wage increase led to a 4.6-percent reduction in employment.

A 1995 report from the University of Chicago and Texas A&M University found that with the last increase in the minimum wage, employment of teenage males fell 5 percent while employment of teenage women fell 7 percent.

In 1978, the Minimum Wage Study Commission determined that for every 10 percent increase in the minimum wage, it results in a 1- to 3-percent job loss for teenagers.

A 1995 study by economists from Ohio University found a link between the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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